



Activities Calendar December, 2005 — May, 2006

Highlights

Boat Trips

Daily

Guided glass bottom boat tours, snorkeling trips and scuba diving trips are all great ways to experience Biscayne. Weekend Sunset Cruises, too! *Details on page 2.*

Ranger's Choice

Daily at 2:30 p.m.

from December 26 – April 23

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday
from April 25 – May 30

From porch talks to short walks, learn about Biscayne's diverse resources with a park ranger. Programs range from 20 minutes to an hour. Check at the visitor center information desk for the day's topic and location.

Gallery Exhibits

Ongoing

Artists have always played a crucial role in increasing awareness and inspiring stewardship of National Parks. Changing exhibits in our visitor center gallery highlight the work of contemporary artists who continue that long tradition. See *page 4 for more information.*

Family Fun Fests

Second Sunday of Every Month

January - May

Three full hours of fun for kids and kids-at-heart! Each month features a different theme with lots of hands-on activities. Complete them all and you'll earn a special button! All activities take place at the Dante Fascell Visitor Center. Sponsored in part by the Captain Bob Lewis Boat Center Yamaha Billfish Challenge. *Check page 3 for all the details.*

Canoe and Kayak Trips

Second and Fourth Saturday of

Every Month January 14 - April 22

Discover the wonders of the mangrove shoreline on a leisurely two-hour guided paddle. *Learn more on page 4.*

Island Excursions

Sunday Afternoons

January through April

How does an afternoon on an idyllic subtropical island sound? Take a leisurely stroll on Elliott Key or Boca Chita Key, Biscayne National Park's two most popular islands. *Start planning your trip on page 2.*

Discovery Series

Second Wednesday of Every Month

January through April

From biodiversity to Caribbean connections, from shipwrecks to critical issues, there's a lot going on in Biscayne National Park. Learn more by attending this free adult lecture series hosted by the Coconut Grove Sailing Club, 2990 South Bayshore Drive. *Look on page 3 for details.*



**Programs and prices subject to
change without notice.**

Boat Trips

Glass Bottom Boat Trips

10:00 a.m. Daily; 3-hour tour

Visiting the reefs and islands of Biscayne National Park is a highlight of any visit. Windy conditions will allow you to explore the Florida Keys on foot with less annoyance from insects, while calm conditions afford an opportunity to see the spectacular world of the coral reef. Fees are \$24.45 for adults, \$19.45 for seniors, and \$16.45 for kids under 12. Eight passenger minimum.

Snorkeling Trip

1:30 p.m. Daily; 3-hour trip
(1:15 p.m. pre-trip orientation)

One of the best ways to appreciate the beauty of the park is by snorkeling the offshore coral reef or the seagrass beds and mangroves of Biscayne Bay. Fees are \$35 for adults and \$29.95 for children 12 and under, including equipment rental. Eight passenger minimum.

Scuba Diving

8:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays

Certified divers can discover the wonder and pristine beauty of South Florida's living coral reefs. A two-tank dive is \$54. Fee includes weights, but additional equipment rental is extra. Eight passenger minimum.

Boat Trips

(continued)

Sunset Cruises

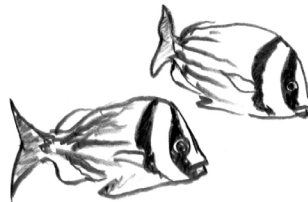
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays only
through April 2

Pinks, oranges, reds and purples — what a way to end a day! A relaxing, 2-hour cruise on Biscayne Bay to view the sunset is often accompanied by birds moving to their evening roosts, and even an occasional dolphin or manatee sighting. Fees are \$14.95 for all seats. Eight passenger minimum. Departure times vary — call 305-230-1100 for details and to make a reservation.

National Park Week Boat Trips

10:00 a.m.: 3-hour tours
April 17 – 21

From Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon to Independence Hall and the Statue of Liberty, national parks each tell a part of the American Story. Miami-Dade County has the honor of being the only county in the nation with two national parks. Celebrate National Park Week at Miami's "other" national treasure with special prices on ranger-guided boat trips to the coral reef or northern Keys. All seats are \$16.45, but space is limited.



Island Excursions

Boca Chita Key:

Millionaire's Retreat

First and Third Sundays
January through April
1:30 p.m.; 3-hour tour



A former hideaway for the rich and famous in the early 1900s, Boca Chita is now Biscayne National Park's most popular island. Take a leisurely stroll past the historic lighthouse, walls and pavilion. Boat fees are \$24.45 for adults, \$19.45 for seniors and \$16.45 for kids under 12. Eight passenger minimum.

Elliott Key: Island Dreaming

Second and Fourth Sundays
January through April
1:30 p.m.; 3-hour tour



Covered by tropical hardwood forest, Elliott Key offers visitors an opportunity to see the Florida Keys the way they used to be, and get a glimpse into the lives of the people who made this island their home. Boat fees are \$24.45 for adults, \$19.45 for seniors and \$16.45 for kids under 12. Eight passenger minimum.

Boat Tour Reservations

Phone: 305-230-1100

Email: divebiscayne@bellsouth.net

All trips subject to a fuel surcharge.

Baynanza Events

visit www.miamidade.gov/baynanza for details on this month-long celebration of Biscayne Bay's natural and human history



Family Fun Fests

Time Traveler

January 8, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

What was Biscayne National Park like during the Ice Age? Who was sneaking around in the mangroves 300 years ago? What might things be like 100 years from now? Travel through time to learn about ancient animals, talk to a pirate, and act like a millionaire. Stick around at the end of today's event for a juice-and-cookies reception honoring the winners of the national Horseshoe Crabs & the Arts competition.

Get Real!

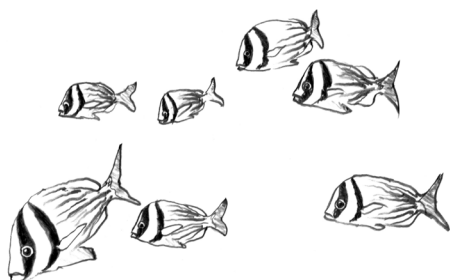
February 12, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Biscayne National Park takes on reality television! Will you fit in as an *Apprentice Ranger*? Do you have the adaptations you need for a game of *Survival*? And what lucky duck will take home the title of *Avian Idol*? Tune in and watch for yourself!

Extraordinary Ordinary

March 12, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Ever wonder about that lizard on the tree? Ever think about that mosquito you just swatted? Take a closer look at some of the ordinary things you see every day, and perhaps they won't seem so ordinary after all.



Family Fun Fests

(continued)

Naturescape!

April 9, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.



Landscaping is soooooo last century! Naturescaping is where it's at! Plant a butterfly buffet, build a birdhouse and practice plant placement. It's the perfect way to have a bit of Biscayne National Park in your own backyard!

Get Out!

May 14, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Most of Biscayne National Park is covered by water, so exploring it means you'll need some special skills. Paddle a canoe, catch (and release!) a fish, and do a little dive talkin'!

Discovery Series

Restoring Biscayne Bay

Wednesday, January 11—7:30 p.m.

Sarah Bellmund

Biscayne National Park

Decades ago freshwater springs welled up from the bottom of Biscayne Bay...but no more. The same water delivery problems which have threatened the Everglades also affect Biscayne National Park. Join Park Ecologist Sarah Bellmund for a discussion on how the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will benefit Miami-Dade County's "other" national park.

Discovery Series lectures held at
Coconut Grove Sailing Club,
2990 South Bayshore Drive,
Miami.

Discovery Series

(continued)

It's a Mountain...It's a

Landmark...No, It's a Landfill!

Wednesday, February 8—7:30 p.m.

German Hernandez

Miami-Dade Solid Waste Department

From almost any point in beautiful Biscayne National Park you can spot an unmistakable landmark, the South Dade Landfill, also known as "Mt. Trashmore." Learn how it operates, how it serves our community, and about its conservation features.

The Maritime Heritage Trail

Wednesday, March 8—7:30 p.m.

Brenda Lanzendorf & David Choate

Biscayne National Park

South Florida's maritime history is full of unfinished voyages, their tragic stories on hold for decades...even centuries. Their physical remains will soon be open to visitors as part of the park's Maritime Heritage Trail. Learn how this "shipwreck trail," unprecedented within the National Park System, will provide visitors an amazing recreational and educational experience.

Getting Bizarre in Biscayne

Wednesday, April 12—7:30 p.m.

Bob Showler

Biscayne National Park



Biscayne National Park is about biodiversity. More species of fish alone exist here than all the fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals combined in Yellowstone. With so much life, some truly remarkable—and often bizarre—natural stories can be told about how plants and animals survive...and how they've crossed paths with people.

In the Gallery

Horseshoe Crabs & the Arts: Winners of the 2005 National Competition

November 29, 2005 – January 8,
2006

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Daily

Meet the Artist Reception
January 8, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Horseshoe crabs are ancient creatures that hold immeasurable promise in research and medicine, yet their numbers are declining as a result of overharvesting, habitat loss and pollution. This traveling exhibition features work by young artists and writers helping to raise awareness of these fascinating animals. The show includes pieces by South Dade residents Monica Colon and Jessica Colon.

Biscayne Blues: Featuring the People of the Park Paintings by Connie Hillyer

January 13 – April 9, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Daily



Meet the Artist Reception
January 13, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The myriad shades of blue that color the waters and skies of Biscayne National Park awaken the artist in anyone and lift the spirit. Connie Hillyer's art captures the park's spirit, and that of some of the many visitors who, like her, find inspiration here.

In the Gallery

Endangered: Photography by Rick Cruz

April 14 – July 9, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 5 p.m. Daily



Meet the Artist Reception
April 14, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Renowned black-and-white landscape photographer Rick Cruz uses his camera to capture the essence and soul of Florida's rare wetlands, thus inspiring and piquing interest in those that will never have the "up close" experience firsthand. Rick believes that education and invoking passion are the only tools we have in protecting this rare and endangered piece of nature. His hope is that his images of some of our area's endangered species will not only educate today's viewers, but preserve history for future generations as well.



Exhibits in the Dante Fascell Visitor Center Gallery are made possible by the South Florida National Parks Trust through grants from the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the First National Bank of South Florida.

Other Programs

Canoe and Kayak Trips

Second and Fourth Saturday of
Every Month January 14 – April 22
9:00 a.m. to Noon

Sneak up a tree-lined channel to spot a crocodile, or listen for the whoosh of a manatee surfacing for air on a two-hour journey over seagrass meadows and along the park's mangrove-fringed shoreline. Bring water, sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses, insect repellent, sturdy shoes you don't mind getting wet and lots of positive energy. Provide your own boat, or rent one at the discount rate of \$15.95. Call 305-230-1100 to reserve a canoe or kayak.

Interested in Volunteering?

Conduct fish and turtle surveys, provide visitor information at the visitor center, give lighthouse tours, assist with filing and computer work, and more. Call 305-230-7275 for details.

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Experience Your America



Printing of this publication was made possible by the Florida National Parks & Monuments Association.

Prices and programs subject to change without notice. Click on the Events Calendar link on our website for last-minute updates.
www.nps.gov/bisc/